

The University of Texas at Tyler
Student Fee Advisory Committee – FY24
Thursday, April 27, 2023

Voting Members Present: Adan Govea, Beverly Luna, Robert Bennet, Kelsey Niete, Cynthia Martinez, Cynthia Martinez, Dr. Adam McGuire, Dr. Leonard Brown

Voting members not present: Justin Vargas

Non-Voting Members Present: Ona Tolliver ex-officio, Kris Kavasch ex-officio, Rick McGill ex-officio, and Coby Dillard, support

*Guests at the request of Senior Vice President Kris Kavasch: Marie Adams

*Guests at the request of the Committee for budget presentations: Dr. Howard Patterson, Ryan Shumaker, VP Joshua Neaves, Cameron Long Richmond

I. Updates

Sr. VP Kris Kavasch didn't have anything to report and the committee went straight into the requested Budget Presentations.

II. Departmental Presentations

The committee reviewed the following requested budget presentations and Approved (A) the budgets based upon discussion.

a. Student Service Fee

i. Internet TV Broadcasting **(A, Immediate Request Only)**

Dr. Howard Patterson introduced Sports Information Director, Ryan Shumaker who explained what Internet TV Broadcasting needs, why it matters, and its current and possible outcomes from accessing the Student Service Fee. The majority of what they do involves the Patriots athletic website, social media, game statistics, and live streaming of games. Shumaker provided graphs showing the increase of success by UT Tyler Patriot Athletics from social interactions, users, impressions, and follower base due to having the equipment and staffing needed. To continue improving the UT Tyler brand and game atmosphere, the Internet TV Broadcasting would like to have more staff and have updated equipment (hardware and software) that is easier to operate.

There was a discussion over the table of additional funding requests and whether or not it was the actual total amount being requested or an addition to what was previously asked. The table was ultimately thought to be the total amount being requested.

Robert Bennett asked how many student workers they would be adding with the proposed amount and whether they have office hours to complete, as well as if UT Tyler handles away games. Currently, the Internet TV Broadcasting employs 10-12 student assistants and would like to add 8 more. They mainly work outside the typical work day during events, but a few ask to have designated hours, though after events there aren't many needed to complete the work week. Away games are taken care of by the respected host, but they still cover game statistics and releases.

ii. Campus Activities **(A)**

Vice President of Student Success and Director of Student Engagement, Joshua Neaves presented for Campus Activities Coordinator, Cameron Long Richmond, who was present. Neaves provided a breakdown of the CA budget, which has remained flat and the same for several years. He explained he prefers to allot 5% of the budget as budget protection in case of increased prices caused by inflation and overshooting. The Fall semester is heavy with programming - Homecoming, Patriot Palooza, Patriot Days are the most costly. Neaves explained the impact CA has on students by showing a comparison of the previous year. This includes the number of events provided and number of check-ins by participants. Student Engagement would like to increase programming and staffing.

It was questioned by Robert Bennett if Patriot Productions (P2) would eventually become its own Call Center. New Patriot Orientation and the Department of Leadership and Service have grown and broken off into their own. Patriot Productions will have to continue to grow and be consistent as a student organization to follow suit. Adan Govea asked if it was the same with the Center for Unity (Sense of Belonging).

Joshua Neaves also wanted to remind the committee that CA serves distance campuses as well.

Chairwoman Kelsey Niete suggested tabling voting for the future requests made by Internet TV Broadcasting. Cynthia Sherman and Beverly Luna questioned why they were under the Student Service Fee and not Athletics. Adan Govea motioned to table the future request and it was seconded by Robert Bennett. Both fees were approved by the committee.

b. Recreational Facility Fee (A)

Rick McGill provided a snapshot of the budget and operation of the HPC and RecSports programs - this included the 95 operation hours a week, 150,000 annual visits (100,000 being students), the 35 fitness classes offered, wellness and club sports, and Outdoor Adventures. McGill used national statistics to show how RecSports helps with retention, recruitment, and student engagement/experience. Updates to the HPC have already been made and more are planned. The increased fee allows program changes to be made, such as the availability of an open gym at the PHE, equipment replacement, and other prospective projects. They hope to do more university-wide events like Goat Yoga.

The committee discussed the upcoming projects and the timeline of when those changes would happen. Cynthia Sherman asked what would be in place of one of the two racquetball rooms that would be removed, to which McGill responded that there are talks for a studio room or a body weight equipment area.

Sr. VP Kris Kavasch will modify the documents so the correct amount for the Total Expense Budget will be reflected (\$1,321,542 to \$1,329,128). Sr. VP Ona tolliver asked if the committee would prefer the documents to be updated before moving forward, no strong feelings were expressed and the Recreational Facility Fee was approved.

III. Other items for discussion

a. Budget recommendation letter to Dr. Calhoun

Sr. VP Tolliver explained to the committee that a recommendation letter will be created with the approval of the budgets that herself, Chairwoman Niete, and Sr. VP Kavasch will each sign.

b. One-time SSF application process and timeline

The committee had the opportunity to review the reserve request forms since there had not been a need to utilize them before. The committee will make the annotation to allow access to the reserve. Access will be available to the budget authority.

The discussion will be continued at a later meeting.

IV. Meeting Schedule

TBD - Possibility of a Doodle Poll being sent out to see what dates work best during the summer, allowing time to replace graduating committee members.